Holly Marie Combs

Holly Marie Combs (born December 3, 1973)[1] is an American film and television actress and producer whose roles have included a portrayal in *Charmed* as Piper Halliwell and another in *Picket Fences*, where she received a Young Artist Award for her role, as Kimberly Brock.[2][3] She stars in the ABC Family original series *Pretty Little Liars* as Ella Montgomery. She was in the movie, *Sins Of Silence*.

Although she had a number of minor roles in the late 1980s, including a brief speaking part in Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth of July*, Combs' major acting debut arrived in the 1992 TV drama series *Picket Fences*. She auditioned for the role of Kimberly while she was in New York. The casting agent told her that she wasn't right for the part because, "She didn't have a big enough heart." Combs retorted, "If you're looking for someone with a big heart, what the hell are you doing in New York?" She was later called back and offered the job.[4] *Picket Fences* ran for four years, winning Combs critical acclaim and a Young Artist award.[2][3]

In 1992, Combs made her appearance in *Simple Men*, *Chain of Desire*, and *Dr. Giggles*, in which she plays its protagonist, the 19-year-old daughter of Cliff De Young's character and girlfriend of Glenn Quinn's character, Jennifer Campbell.

In 1996, she starred alongside Alyson Hannigan and Tangi Miller in a pilot called Friends for Life. The pilot wasn't picked up

In 1997, she played real-life convicted murderess Diane Zamora in the television movie Swearing Allegiance, a far cry from her other good girl roles. Combs was with her friend Shannen Doherty when Doherty was given the pilot script for *Charmed*. Doherty took Combs along to the audition when Combs said she wanted to take part in the audition. When they did, Combs auditioned for the role of Prue Halliwell and Doherty for Piper Halliwell, but they ended up switching roles. Alyssa Milano and Combs both became producers for *Charmed* in the fifth season.[6] For the first three seasons of *Charmed* (debuted in 1998 and was a hit TV series, which ended in May 2006), Combs played the second oldest of the three sisters. When the eldest, Doherty, left after the third season and Rose McGowan joined the cast for the fourth season, Combs played the eldest sister for the remaining five seasons of the show. This is all while she was the youngest of all four actresses.

In 2008, Combs signed a contract with Lifetime Television to produce and star in a new TV series, *Mistresses* which was originally scheduled to air in January 2009, but was not picked up.[7][8]

Combs made her television comeback in June 2010 on ABC Family's new show Pretty Little Liars. Combs plays Ella Montgomery, the mother of main character Aria Montgomery (played by Lucy Hale). The new series premiered on ABC Family June 8th 2010.[9]

Pretty Little Liars has been extended for another 12 episodes making Season 1 a total of 22 episodes

Combs attended Anaheim Comic Con with former Charmed co-stars Shannen Doherty (Prue) and Victor Webster (Coop) on 17 April 2010.